

Southwestern Idaho News

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped a half percentage point in May to 2.1 percent from April's already historic low. May's unemployment rate was a full percentage point below a year ago as over 10,000 more people were working. There were 2,600 more people on the job than in April while the number of unemployed dropped by 1,400 even as the labor force overall expanded. The number of people out of work was down 30 percent, about 2,700, from May 2006.

The metropolitan area's unemployment rate at nearly 50 percent below the level considered full employment has created an employee's job market where employers have to be more creative to attract talent. Some of those recruiting strategies have begun to work in May as not only did the ranks of the unemployment shrink by 1,400 but 1,200 new entrants into the labor force found jobs with employee-starved employers.

Southwestern Idaho Table 2: May 2007 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwestern Idaho Counties

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unemployed	Percent Unemployed	Number Employed
Ada	199,921	3,809	1.9	196,112
Adams	1,986	79	4.0	1,907
Boise	4,336	79	1.8	4,258
Canyon	83,778	2,186	2.6	81,592
Elmore	11,069	344	3.1	10,725
Gem	7,807	199	2.6	7,608
Owyhee	4,898	67	1.4	4,830
Payette	10,419	300	2.9	10,118
Valley	5,159	142	2.8	5,017
Washington	5,150	139	2.7	5,011
Statewide	755,386	17,390	2.3	737,996

Southwestern Idaho Table 1: Boise City-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment (Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties)

	May 2007*	Apr 2007	May 2006	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	300,700	299,500	293,300	0.4	2.5
Unemployment	6,300	7,700	9,000	-18.2	-30.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.1	2.6	3.1		
Total Employment	294,400	291,800	284,300	0.9	3.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	300,400	299,000	293,300	0.5	2.4
Unemployment	5,000	8,000	7,900	-37.5	-36.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.7	2.7	2.7		
Total Employment	295,400	291,000	285,400	1.5	3.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	281,900	279,600	268,400	0.8	5.0
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	57,300	57,100	56,300	0.4	1.8
<i>Natural Resources & Construction</i>	25,500	25,200	24,900	1.2	2.4
Construction	25,200	24,900	24,500	1.2	2.9
<i>Manufacturing</i>	31,800	31,900	31,400	-0.3	1.3
Durable Goods	25,800	25,900	25,100	-0.4	2.8
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,600	2,500	2,700	4.0	-3.7
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,700	1,700	1,500	0.0	13.3
Machinery Manufacturing	1,300	1,400	1,300	-7.1	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	15,200	15,200	14,700	0.0	3.4
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,600	2,500	2,300	4.0	13.0
Other Durable Goods	2,400	2,600	2,600	-7.7	-7.7
Nondurable Goods	6,000	6,000	6,300	0.0	-4.8
Food Manufacturing	4,200	4,300	4,300	-2.3	-2.3
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,100	1,000	1,300	10.0	-15.4
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	224,600	222,500	212,100	0.9	5.9
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	54,500	53,900	50,900	1.1	7.1
Trade	46,800	46,200	43,500	1.3	7.6
Wholesale Trade	12,300	12,200	12,000	0.8	2.5
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,900	6,900	6,900	0.0	0.0
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	3,900	3,800	3,600	2.6	8.3
Retail Trade	34,500	34,000	31,500	1.5	9.5
Food & Beverage Stores	4,500	4,500	4,500	0.0	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	7,400	7,300	6,000	1.4	23.3
All Other Retail Trade	22,600	22,200	21,000	1.8	7.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,700	7,700	7,400	0.0	4.1
Utilities	700	700	600	0.0	16.7
Transportation & Warehousing	7,000	7,000	6,800	0.0	2.9
<i>Information</i>	4,800	4,700	4,600	2.1	4.3
Telecommunications	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
<i>Financial Activities</i>	15,300	15,200	14,100	0.7	8.5
Finance & Insurance	10,700	10,700	9,900	0.0	8.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,600	4,500	4,200	2.2	9.5
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	41,100	40,900	40,100	0.5	2.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	11,800	11,900	11,500	-0.8	2.6
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,600	5,600	5,700	0.0	-1.8
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	23,700	23,400	22,900	1.3	3.5
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	33,000	32,900	31,700	0.3	4.1
Educational Services	2,900	2,900	2,600	0.0	11.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	30,100	30,000	29,100	0.3	3.4
Hospitals	9,800	9,700	9,400	1.0	4.3
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	24,500	24,200	23,500	1.2	4.3
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,200	3,200	3,300	0.0	-3.0
Accommodation & Food Services	21,300	21,000	20,200	1.4	5.4
Accommodation	2,400	2,400	2,200	0.0	9.1
Food Services & Drinking Places	18,900	18,600	18,000	1.6	5.0
<i>Other Services</i>	7,800	7,700	6,600	1.3	18.2
<i>Total Government</i>	43,600	43,000	40,600	1.4	7.4
Federal Government	5,900	5,600	5,700	5.4	3.5
State & Local Government	37,700	37,400	34,900	0.8	8.0
State Government	14,000	13,900	13,200	0.7	6.1
State Government Education	4,600	4,600	4,400	0.0	4.5
State Government Administration	9,400	9,300	8,800	1.1	6.8
Local Government	23,700	23,500	21,700	0.9	9.2
Local Government Education	15,500	15,300	13,600	1.3	14.0
Local Government Administration	8,200	8,200	8,100	0.0	1.2

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Nonfarm jobs continued increasing at a brisk pace in May, up nearly a point from April and 5 percent over the previous year. Metropolitan nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,300 in May and were up 13,500 from May 2006. The largest gains came in retail trade with 500 jobs as Nampa's Treasure Valley Marketplace continued to fill up along with administrative support, which added 300 jobs as the summer hiring season was under way and temporary service agencies got into full swing. Government was also a big gainer, hiring 600 workers for mostly seasonal jobs such as fire fighting and summer maintenance at the state and county levels. The May 2007 civilian labor force and total employment figures for all 10 counties in southwestern Idaho are shown in Southwestern Idaho Table 2 on page 14.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BOISE METROPOLITAN AREA

- Blackhawk Products Group of Norfolk, Va., recently opened for production in the former Michael's of Oregon building in the Silverstone business park in Meridian. Blackhawk manufactures products similar to Michael's like military and law enforcement gear, holsters, boots and gloves, which it distributes to a network of 3,000 dealers. Blackhawk hopes to eventually employ up to 250 people at its Meridian facility.
- A new call center is currently hiring telephone operators in the Meridian area. Dial 411 says it could have 300 people working at the new call center within a year. It opens July 31. Dial 411 is a new directory assistance call center that will provide business and residential phone numbers as well as business referrals. The businesses it serves will be charged a membership fee, and call transfers will range in cost from \$1.65 to \$5.50. Dial 411 operators will be starting out at \$10 an hour with full benefits packages.
- Ground was recently broken on a new fire station in East Nampa. Fire Station No. 5 is scheduled to be up and running by December.
- Greenleaf is home to one of the newest ranches in Idaho. Hare of the Dog Ranch is raising rabbits that meet all state requirements and are not given hormones or antibiotics. Hare of the Dog also raises ducks and sells duck eggs. This new business markets its products at the Boise Co-Op and Capital City Public Market in Boise, which is open on Saturdays.
- Boise-based Washington Group International has been bought by San Francisco-based URS Corp. The buyout was valued at \$2.6 billion. Washington Group is expected to remain in Boise as a subsidiary of URS, keeping the company's roughly 600 employees in Boise. The buyout will make URS the fourth largest construction and engineering company in the world. Washington Group was the 13th largest in the world before this deal was made.
- Property values are up in 2007 in Ada County. The median increase in assessed value was 16.7 percent, ranging from 11.8 percent in northeast Meridian to 23.8 percent on the Boise Bench.

Property values in Ada County's three urban renewal districts rose faster than the county overall. Property in the Meridian urban renewal area increased 48 percent to \$125.3 million. Boise's urban renewal district increased 40 percent, and Garden City's was up 37 percent.
- Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse is building a second store in Meridian. The new store will be 117,000 square feet on 12.5 acres valued at \$18 million. Once completed this fall, the store will employ between 150 and 175 workers.
- MotivePower of Boise has taken orders for 12 more locomotives in a contract deal worth approximately \$33 million. MotivePower is scheduled to fill the contract during 2008-2009 for public transportation agencies in California, New Mexico and Minnesota.
- As the Boise Airport continues to grow, so does the number of direct flights to major metropolitan areas. Delta added a daily nonstop flight to Los Angeles on July 1 for up to 50 passengers.
- A new charter high school in Eagle will be opening this fall. The organizers of the kindergarten-to-eighth-grade North Star Charter School are launching the North Star High School, which will emphasize economics and business as well as writing and leadership courses. Students will spend time with local business leaders learning how business is conducted outside of an academic setting.
- Walgreens is currently building new stores in Nampa near Mercy Medical Center and in Caldwell near West Valley Medical Center.
- Supervalu is moving staff out of five office buildings in Boise to the former Albertsons headquarters building and other nearby locations. Previous layoffs and staff transfers to Minnesota opened up space in the headquarters building, permitting the consolidation. The move is not resulting in more layoffs.

- The Humanitarian Bowl has a new title sponsor. Roady's Truck Stops of New Plymouth in Payette County signed a three-year sponsorship agreement for the annual college football bowl game in Boise State University's Bronco Stadium. Roady's Truck Stops has over 350 locations in the United States and is headquartered in New Plymouth.
- The city of Nampa is getting a new outdoor ice skating rink. The Nampa Ice Factory has broken ground on a 130- by 70-foot rink and is set to open sometime in October. In addition to the ice rink, a 4,000-square-foot restaurant is being built close enough to the rink for patrons to watch the skaters. In the spring and summer months the ice rink will be available for private and community events.

ELMORE COUNTY

- The Elmore Medical Center has begun a \$1.4 million expansion of the Trinity Mountain Family Practice Clinic. Approximately 4,200 square feet will be added to accommodate new physicians along with expanded parking, front office improvements and a waiting room.
- Elmore County recently opened its new \$7.5 million, 138-bed jail. The county has also secured a contract with the Idaho Department of Correction to house up to 70 minimum-security inmates. The building also houses the sheriff, his chief deputy, the new 911 dispatch center and the warrants office.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- A \$500,000 rural community development block grant has been approved for Payette County for new roads to allow access to Hannigan Motors' new auto mall along I-84 at Exit 3. Once complete, the Hannigan Auto Mall expects to create 34 new jobs with benefits.

VALLEY COUNTY

- The value of all property in Valley County exceeded \$6 billion in 2007, a 50 percent increase from 2006. Incredibly, just three years ago, values totaled just \$1.8 billion. Bare land values were up 135 percent in McCall, 55 percent in Cascade and 65 percent in Smiths Ferry.
- Construction has begun on the new McCall Elementary School near the Payette Lakes Middle School. It is scheduled to open in fall 2008. The roughly 61,000-square-foot, two story school will cost \$13.3 million.
- Voters in the Meadows Valley School District have passed a supplemental two-year levy for \$195,000

to pay for shop classes and instructors, supplies and instructors in other classes, compliance with testing requirements and replacement of items lost in the recent school fire that are not covered by insurance.

ADAMS COUNTY

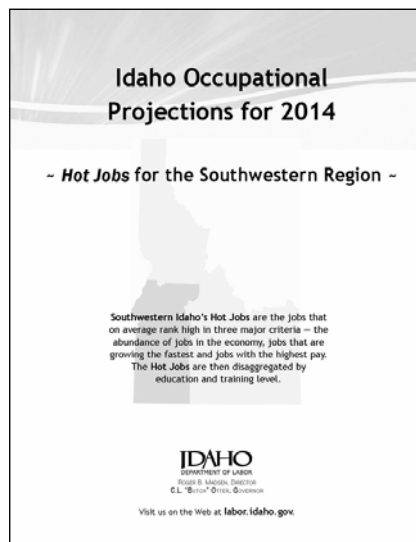
- The Adams County Historic Preservation Commission recently received a \$257,000 Idaho Community Block Grant to convert the old courthouse into a community center. The courthouse was built in 1915 and has fallen into disrepair.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- Weiser Products Inc. has officially transitioned to Robert Weed Plywood Corp. in the Weiser Industrial Park near Champion Homes and Mirage Trailers. All 22 employees remain on the job, making products for the manufactured home industry, RV manufacturing industry and others. Robert Weed will manufacture laminate paneling, cabinetry, shelving, molding, paints, adhesives and sealers for customers in Idaho, Alaska, Oregon, Washington and California.
- Midvale held the grand opening of its new \$200,000 Ag Shop complete with tools and supplies. More classes in professional technical fields will now be available for the town's high school students.

John Panter, Regional Economist
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 364-7785, ext. 3599
E-mail: john.panter@labor.idaho.gov

Southwestern Idaho's Hot Jobs are the jobs that on average rank high in three major criteria — the abundance of



jobs in the economy, jobs that are growing the fastest and jobs with the highest pay.

This publication, available at lmi.idaho.gov, lists the disaggregated **Hot Jobs** by education and training level.

From the Web site, choose Area LMI from the top menu. Then choose the region of interest from the state-wide map.